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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventors: Kiyohito MUKAI, et al. Art Unit: 2825

Application No.: ¹⁰⁷⁵¹¹⁹ New Patent Application Examiner: N. Doan

Filed: November 18, 2003

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE LAYOUT INSPECTION METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement of August 10, 2004,
Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-2, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement. No unduly extensive or burdensome search would be required to examine the various claims of the noted Groups in the same application. MPEP §803 states:

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added)

In the present case, the search for all pending claims together would not be burdensome.

Moreover, from the standpoint of costs to the Applicants involved in filing, issuance and maintenance fees relating to

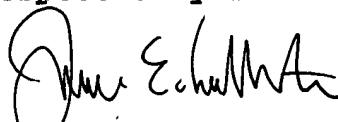
separate applications if the present Restriction Requirement is maintained, it is clear that there is substantially more burden on Applicants by imposing the present Requirement than on the Patent Office if the Requirement were withdrawn.

In addition, it is noted that to require the claims of the various Groups to issue in separate patents would result in inconvenience to the public by necessitating reference to more than one patent during searching, to review closely related subject matter.

Therefore, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is warranted.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: November 18, 2005

JEL/ejw

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L8462.03118
STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
1615 L Street, NW, Suite 850
P.O. Box 34387
Washington, DC 20043-4387
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200